

Dear Education Committee,

I am writing in regard to HB 5551 An Act Concerning the Commissioner's Network of Schools.

I am speaking against the passage of 5551. This resembles a grade on a report card for a student, grading on a 5 point scale, schools being 1-5 instead of the A through F.

Could schools really be given 'one grade' of sorts? NO.. Having a 5 point scale does so much a disservice to what an public school does for the children. This, coupled with the current push for the 95% state testing, currently Smarter Balanced, is with great issue. Being that the Smarter Balanced Assessment has no credibility and parents continue to question this issue, the state coupling this test as part of the "grade" of schools is a farce. To assist the Education Committee in making a fully informed decision, I would suggest you to request Commissioner Wentzel to provide the external validation of the Smarter Balanced test.

<http://missourieducationwatchdog.com/sbac-tests-show-no-validity-or-reliability/>

At this time, the global overtaking of our public schools comes closer and closer each day -- parents attempted to be pushed to the side for "improvement of education". We need local control of our education systems, and less of the Federal and State government. The great push in the state is to create more Charter Schools - and certainly a few n on-governmental organizations, not "the People" are making many suggestions through their lobbying efforts to make these changes.

Local school boards and our Constitutional Republic should prevail.

Sincerely,

Anne Manusky
Easton, CT